

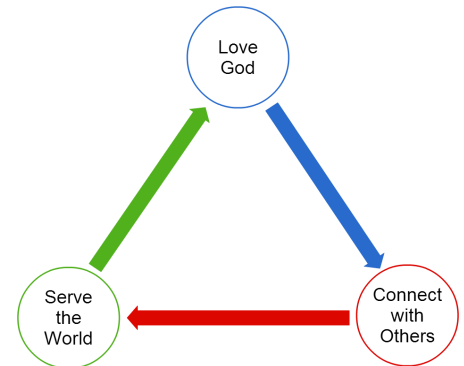
THE MESSENGER

February 2020

Cherry Valley United Methodist Church

Rev. Mark Harkness, Pastor
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Office phone: 815/332-5075

E-mail: churchinthevalley@comcast.net
Web Site: cherryvalleyumc.com
Facebook: Cherry Valley United Methodist Church



Our Mission: *Making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world by loving God, connecting with others, and serving the world.*

A WORD FROM THE PASTOR

^{2:1} If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, ²make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. ⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God,

did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, ⁷but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, ⁸he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth.

Philippians 2:1-10 (NRSV)

Grace and peace in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Just two days after we celebrated the arrival of the new year, headlines proclaimed “United Methodist Church Announces Plan to Split Over Same-Sex Marriage.” As I mentioned during announcements on the following Sunday (1/5), those headlines were and are inaccurate. I did not nor will I refer to the reports as “fake news.” While titillating (That’s what headlines are meant to do), the headlines and subsequent articles’ inaccuracies derive from ignorance of our church polity (i.e. internal governance) along with underlying disagreement among United Methodists regarding the authority and veracity of Scripture and how best to proclaim God’s grace revealed in Jesus Christ and to nurture that grace through mutual accountability. Different opinions surrounding same-sex marriage and sexual expression, although more conversationally provocative, are ultimately only manifestations of disagreement regarding the meaning and authority of Scripture along with the role of tradition, reason and experience in discerning how we should live together as Christians.

In The United Methodist Church, only the General Conference may speak on behalf of the denomination. The General Conference (which is composed of clergy and laity from every Annual Conference) will meet next on May 5-15. Therefore, until General Conference concludes in May, The United Methodist Church will have made no new statements concerning anything. Any comments or proposals by individual United Methodists or groups of United Methodists are theirs alone, and have no direct bearing on The United Methodist Church.

Currently The United Methodist Church does not prohibit any person from membership or ordination based merely on sexual orientation. However, proscriptions remain concerning sexual expression, and the authority of clergy to bless same-sex marriage.

With that said, there have been several proposals submitted to the upcoming General Conference to address/change the church’s language regarding sexual expression, including proposals that would create multiple Methodist denominations or facilitate annual conferences and individual congregations to align/realign within those frameworks. It is unlikely that any of those proposals will be accepted by General Conference without revision. Until our brothers and sisters meet in

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General Conference, the particular outcome regarding these issues is unknown.

Realistically, it seems more likely than not that the General Conference will authorize the creation of at least one more Methodist denomination in a manner that will prevent litigious disputes regarding assets and the ongoing obligations that could result from such an action.

Personally, I pray that our denomination will heed St. Paul's advice given in the scripture at the beginning of this article to be of the same mind that was in Christ and to listen to one another in humility for the sake of one another. I ask you to pray the same.

In the meantime, we cannot allow our fears or concerns distract us from our obligation to share Jesus Christ within our community.

Your brother in Christ,

Rev. Mark Harkness

PS: To facilitate a Holy Conferencing conversation hosted by the Rockford cluster of United Methodist churches in November, I collected several documents regarding various proposals submitted to General Conference. Below is a link to an on-line folder containing those documents along with the document that inspired recent headlines: <https://www.amazon.com/clouddrive/share/>



The 2019 Giving Statements are available now for pickup. They are on the table by the elevator.

If the statements are not picked up, we will have to mail them. Please help us save postage costs by picking your up statement as soon as possible.



Serving Opportunities

Looking for an opportunity to serve at the church? We are looking for volunteers to help with cleaning up files and scanning documents. Speak with Pastor Mark.



Members & Friends

Sandra Baxter
Violet Collier
Joe Hunt
Lela Lameyer
Lyons Meyers
Marlene Meyers
Deanna Morgan
Jim & Barb Whitlock

Military Personnel

Sean Conderman
Tamara Duke
Dan Harter
Mark Kincaide

Mission

Pastor Kim & the Next Generation Ministry

Those Who Mourn

Deanna Morgan Family



PRAYER REQUESTS: If you have prayer concerns that you wish to express, please fill out a prayer request card located in the Prayer Chapel. Please indicate how you would like your request shared via the check boxes at the bottom of the card and then place the concerns in the request box. You may also email your prayer requests to the secretary who will pass it on the Prayer Chain.

Thank You



I want all of you to know how much your prayers, cards, and get well wishes meant to me during my time in the hospital and the ensuing time confined at home. I am so grateful for all of you and your caring ways. I am still mending, but the doc says it will just take time to get my hand to work the way it is designed to do. If you missed me, please know that I missed y'all too! It's good to be back! Thank you.

Nancy Laurent, Secretary

Dear Pastor Harkness and Congregation,

Thank you for your recent donation of 65 pounds of food, which helped to make the day a little brighter for our neighbors at risk of going hungry.

We are grateful that you, like us, understand that there is no good reason for anyone to go hungry. Thank you. Every box, every can, makes a difference!

Sincerely,

Kim Adams-Bakke
Executive Director



*To our volunteers
in our church-sponsored food pantry,
a big*

THANK YOU!

Lord God,
You who breathed the spirit of life within me.
Draw out of me the light and life you created.
Help me to find my way back to you.
Help me to use my life to reflect your glory
and to serve others as your son Jesus did.

Methodist Women



Our meeting in January was delayed due to extreme weather conditions. While the weather was cold, we did meet following worship on January 19th.

We have chosen to pass on the Valentine Bake Sale this year, however, Shrove Tuesday, which is February 25th, is still on.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper



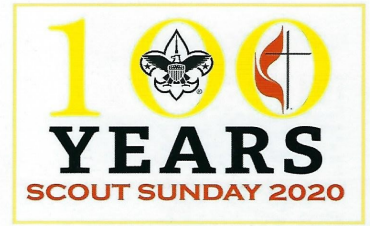
We will be serving pancakes from 4:30 to 6:30 that evening. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend for an evening of good food and fellowship.

Our next meeting will be held on February 9th following worship. We welcome any to join us.

SCOUT SUNDAY 2020

Scouting Sunday is February 9. CVUMC will be celebrating both the Boy Scouts and the Girl Scouts on February 9.

This year is special since it is the celebration of 100 years of partnership between the Boy Scouts and the Methodist Church. Don't miss the opportunity to see these young people as they practice the values learned in the Scouts and the Methodist Church.



Take time to celebrate on Scout Sunday the 100 years of partnership between Methodist and BSA investing in youth.

Feb. 9, 2020 Scout Sunday



Ash Wednesday

The beginning of the Holy Season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, February 26.

Ashes will be available at the church beginning at 6:00 a.m.

Join us for a special worship at 7:00 pm.

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY

MONDAYS

MARCH 2—APRIL 6

TWO SESSIONS FROM WHICH TO CHOOSE

10:00 AM OR 6:30 PM

SHADOWS, DARKNESS, AND DAWN:

A LENTEN JOURNEY WITH JESUS

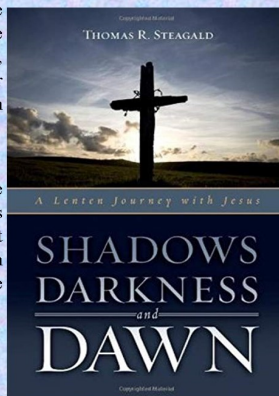
BY THOMAS STEAGALD

BOOKS ARE \$9 (INCLUDING SHIPPING)

SIGN UP BY FEBRUARY 10

This study explores Jesus' spiritual journey in the wilderness and the lives of some of those who were touched by him: Nicodemus, the woman at the well, the man who was born blind, Mary and Martha after the death of their brother, Lazarus, along with religious and civil leaders.

Perhaps you'll find some similarities between these people's spiritual journeys and your own. As Jesus bravely enters the thickening shadows of conflict and rejection, you'll be led to explore shadows in your life. You'll discover the power of Christ's love to set you free from sin and the fear of darkness.



Rock River Valley Food Pantry



ROCK RIVER VALLEY
PANTRY
Northern Illinois' Largest
Community Food Pantry

Feeding Rockford One Meal At A Time

Thank you for your continued support of the Rock River Valley Food Pantry. The pantry currently serves approximately 6,800 clients per month. You can help by bringing your non-perishable foods and placing them in the basket located in the foyer of the church.

CURRENT NEEDS LIST

Canned Fruit	Applesauce	100% Juice
Canned Vegetables	Pasta and Rice	Cereal
Peanut Butter	Tuna	Soup

PEANUT BUTTER ENDOWMENT

The Rock River Food Pantry also has a Peanut Butter Endowment program in which charitable contributions of property, assets or funds are placed. Endowments are created for non-profit organizations in support of a specific goal. The Peanut Butter Endowment was created to purchase food to distribute to our clients. Join in this valuable cause by making a one-time or recurring donation. You may go to the web site at <http://www.rrvp.org/peanut-butter-endowment/> and view the brochure outlining the program and you can donate on line.

Spiritual Insights

By Jim Whitlock

Luke 18:1-8:

Persevering Prayer—The Parable of the Unjust Judge.

“In a certain city was a judge who feared not God nor regarded man.” The judge was utterly selfish and godless. He did not care for anyone’s opinion. “And there was a widow who came to the judge saying, ‘Avenge me of my adversary’. (She is asking for justice).”

The widow was poor, friendless, and without any influence. She came repeatedly asking for help. The adversary is typical of Satan, as Peter says in Peter 5:8, “...your adversary, the devil, like a roaring lion walks about seeking who he can destroy.” The widow asks the judge repeatedly for help and because she constantly worried him with her requests, the judge gave in to her.

Jesus chose the judge to represent God. But, Jesus goes to great lengths to tell us that God is long-suffering, the loving sign of loving and gentle patience. Jesus tells us “...men should always pray and faint not...” Don’t lose heart, don’t give up. God will hear our prayers and answer them speedily for those that worship Him and are His own elect and call on Him day and night.

The winning quality in prayer is perseverance.



ent

remembrance and renewal as we journey to the cross

Birthdays & Anniversaries



- 17 Mary Lou Clevenger
- 19 Teaghan Brown
- 20 Mark Harkness
- 21 Judith Krunfus
- 23 Mark Snyder

February Birthdays

- 3 Riley Sundberg
- 5 Mary Wilson
- 6 Matthew Gross
- 9 Keith Burritt
- 12 Taylor Gross
- 13 Kathy Ware

February Anniversaries

- 9 Matthew & Jenny Hartman



Happy Anniversary



2020 Church Council Meeting Dates

The following are Church Council and Finance Committee meeting dates for 2020. The Finance Committee meets at 6:15 pm, all dates and the Council meets at 7:00 pm, all dates.

- | | |
|-------------|--------------|
| February 18 | August 11 |
| March 31 | September 22 |
| May 5 | November 10 |
| June 16 | |



Committee chairs should have their written reports to the secretary no later than the day prior to the meeting.

February Worship Leader Schedule	Sunday February 2	Sunday February 9	Sunday February 16	Sunday February 23
Liturgist	Scott Layng	Boy Scouts	Amy Flood	Janet Bryant
Greeter Team	Kathleen Sundberg Charlie Schnuckel	Boy Scouts	Judy Krunfus	Jim Bryant Kathleen Sundberg
Usher	Volunteer	Boy Scouts	Dave Ward	Keith Burritt
Media	Andrew Schwartz	Boy Scouts	Patricia Irps	Patricia Irps

Upcoming Sermons

Below is a schedule of the sermons and scripture readings that Pastor Mark will be presenting. To prepare yourself, please read the scriptures beforehand. Printed copies of Pastor Mark's sermons are available on the church website (cherryvalleyumc.com). Click the worship tab.

February 2

Call to WorshipPsalm 15
Scripture Lesson.....1 Corinthians 1:18-31
GospelMatthew 5:1-12
Message.....*Foolish Wisdom*

February 9

Call to WorshipPsalm 112:1-10
Scripture Lesson.....Isaiah 59:1-9a
GospelMatthew 5:13-20
Message.....*Properly Seasoned?*

February 16

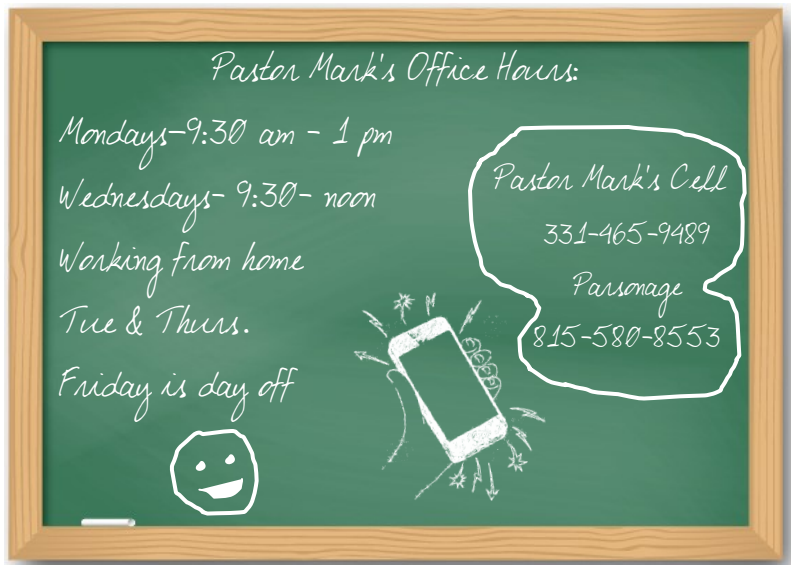
Call to WorshipPsalm 119:1-8
Scripture Lesson.....Deuteronomy 30:15-20
GospelMatthew 5:21-37
Message.....*Serious Faith*

February 23

Call to WorshipPsalm 99
Scripture Lesson.....Exodus 24:12-18
GospelMatthew 17:1-9
Message.....*Head in the Clouds*

February 26

.....Ash Wednesday
Call to WorshipPsalm 51:1-17
Scripture Lesson.....2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10
GospelMatthew 6:1-6, 16-21
Message.....*Be Aware*



This Lenten/Easter prayer was composed by the Rev. Michaela Youngson, the Methodist Church of Britain.

When everything was dark
and it seemed that the sun would never shine again,
your love broke through.

Your love was too strong,
too wide,
too deep
for death to hold.

The sparks cast by your love
dance and spread
and burst forth
with resurrection light.

Gracious God,
We praise you for the light of new life
made possible through Jesus.
We praise you for the light of new life
that shone on the first witnesses of resurrection.
We praise you for the light of new life
that continues to shine in our hearts today.

We pray that the Easter light of life, hope and joy,
will live in us each day;
and that we will be bearers of that light
into the lives of others.
Amen.



Northern Illinois Conference
of the United Methodist Church

**ROCKFORD DISTRICT
LEADERSHIP TRAINING**

Saturday, February 1, 2020
Faith United Methodist Church
1440 S. Walnut - Freeport, IL

Please register by January 24, 2020
<https://www.umcnic.org/calendar/rockford-leadership-training-event>

For more information, please contact:
Pastor Donna Hoffman - 608 293 0194



Next Generation Ministries Mission Trip

My dear friends in Christ,

To further support and encourage Pastor Kim, I am planning a trip to Tanzania **in July 2020**. July is a more temperate climate though still hot. Also, the building project should be well underway. This trip will help us to better understand how to pray and support her ministry. Her newsletters and Facebook posts are full of her energy and her heart! Her passion is undeniable! However one learns so much more by seeing it in person. It also means a great deal to a missionary when people come to see where they live and work!

So, I am inviting you to join me!

I am extending the baton to you to learn about international missions. It can and often is a life-changing experience. Here is the plan!

Primary objectives:

- To support and encourage Pastor Kim in her mission work.
- To view her new campus; to understand its purpose; to understand its challenges.
- To experience her work in one of the villages developing discipleship training. (Nifuute training)
- To experience the daily life of the Tanzanian people in urban and rural areas.
- To experience the walk of faith of missionaries
- To grow more deeply in a personal relationship with the Lord!
- To bring back to the church family what is learned; and how to pray for Pastor Kim!

Length of Stay:

14-16 days (July 13-July 27, 2020)

5-8 days will be spent with Pastor Kim in **Dar Salaam** and at one of the villages.

2-3 days in **Zanzibar** with Pastor Kim.

2-4 days in Arusha/Serengeti National Reserve – **Safari**.

Tentative cost: \$3500 (estimate)

*Flight: \$1500 roundtrip

*Visa: \$100

Room & Board: \$1000 (based on 12 days)

Daily transportation/guide costs: \$200

Ferry: \$60

Flight to Arusha/Serengeti: \$250

Safari: \$300

^Known cost from Morrison Travel Agency. All other costs are estimates. Pastor Kim is working on local costs.

Interested but can't quite afford it?

The church has agreed to provide a designated amount of funding through its outreach component. Individual support will depend on how many people choose to go. If you are INTERESTED, please *contact me soon*. I will be in Rockford during the Christmas holidays and we can meet to discuss details. If you are not sure, and want to think about it, still contact me.

JudyLong1949@gmail.com 815-299-8637

With God's grace we grow together!

Your grateful missionary! Judy Long

Next Generation Ministries

T A N Z A N I A

MISSION TRIP

MISSION OBJECTIVE:

- To support and encourage Pastor Kim in her mission work.
- To view her new campus; to understand its purpose; to understand its challenges.
- To experience her work in one of the villages developing discipleship training. (Nifuute training)
- To experience the daily life of the Tanzanian people in urban and rural areas.
- To experience the walk of faith of missionaries
- To grow more deeply in a personal relationship with the Lord!
- To bring back to the church family what we learned; and how to pray for Pastor Kim!



JULY 13—JULY 27, 2020

- 5-8 DAYS IN DAR SALAAM WITH PASTOR KIM
- 2-3 DAYS IN ZANZIBAR WITH PASTOR KIM
- 2-4 DAYS IN ARUSHA/SERENGETI RESERVE

ESTIMATED COST - \$3,500

INTERESTED?

CONTACT JUDY LONG

815-299-8637 OR
judylong1949@gmail.com

REMINDER:

We are in the process of conducting the annual church audit. All groups with checking accounts must gather your files in preparation for your audit. We will contact you to make an appointment for your audit.

If you have any questions, please contact Scott Layng or Sally Hollembeak.



Christian Stewardship is the practice of systematic and proportionate giving of time, abilities, and material possessions based on the conviction that these are a trust from God, to be used in God's service for the benefit of all mankind in grateful acknowledgement of Christ's redeeming love.



February 2020

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
						1 9:00 am Gamblers Anonymous 8:50 am-Noon Studio 3
2 8:45 am Sunday School 9:45 am Worship 11:00 am Fellowship	3 6:00 pm Girl Scouts 3:30 pm-7:00 pm Studio 3	4 4:00 pm-7:00 pm Studio 3 5:45 pm Boy Scouts	5 9:00 am Bible Study @ CV Café 3:00 pm-7:00 pm Studio 3 6:15 pm Cub Scout Pack # 429 6:30 pm Trustees 7:00 pm Choir	6 3:30 pm-5:00 pm Studio 3	7 10:30 am-noon Studio 3 3:45 pm-5:45 pm Studio 3	8 9:00 am Gamblers Anonymous 8:50 am-Noon Studio 3
9 8:45 am Sunday School 9:45 am Worship 11:00 am Fellowship 11:15 am Methodist Women	10 6:00 pm Girl Scouts 3:30 pm-7:00 pm Studio 3	11 4:00 pm-7:00 pm Studio 3 5:45 pm Boy Scouts	12 9:00 am Bible Study @ CV Café 3:00 pm-7:00 pm Studio 3 6:15 pm Cub Scout Pack # 429 7:00 pm Choir	13 3:30 pm-5:00 pm Studio 3	14 10:30 am-noon Studio 3 3:45 pm-5:45 pm Studio 3 	15 9:00 am Gamblers Anonymous 8:50 am-Noon Studio 3 <i>Messenger items due</i>
16 8:45 am Sunday School 9:45 am Worship 11:00 am Fellowship	17 6:00 pm Girl Scouts 3:30 pm-7:00 pm Studio 3	18 4:00 pm-7:00 pm Studio 3 5:45 pm Boy Scouts	19 9:00 am Bible Study @ CV Café 10:00 am Prayer Shawl Group 3:00 pm-7:00 pm Studio 3 6:15 pm Cub Scout Pack # 429 7:00 pm Choir	20 3:30 pm-5:00 pm Studio 3	21 10:30 am-noon Studio 3 3:45 pm-5:45 pm Studio 3	22 9:00 am Gamblers Anonymous 8:50 am-Noon Studio 3 1:00 – 3:00 pm Studio 3 Group Class
23 8:45 am Sunday School 9:45 am Worship 11:00 am Fellowship 6:00—7:30 pm Studio 3 Group Class	24 6:00 pm Girl Scouts 3:30 pm-7:00 pm Studio 3	25 4:00 pm-7:00 pm Studio 3 4:30-6:30 pm Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper 5:45 pm Boy Scouts	26 <i>Ash Wednesday</i> 6:00 am Ashes are Available 9:00 am Bible Study @ CV Café 3:00 pm-7:00 pm Studio 3 6:15 pm Cub Scout Pack # 429 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Worship Service	27 3:30 pm-5:00 pm Studio 3	28 10:30 am-noon Studio 3 3:45 pm-5:45 pm Studio 3	29 9:00 am Gamblers Anonymous 8:50 am-Noon Studio 3

Messenger items are due to the secretary on the 15th of each month.

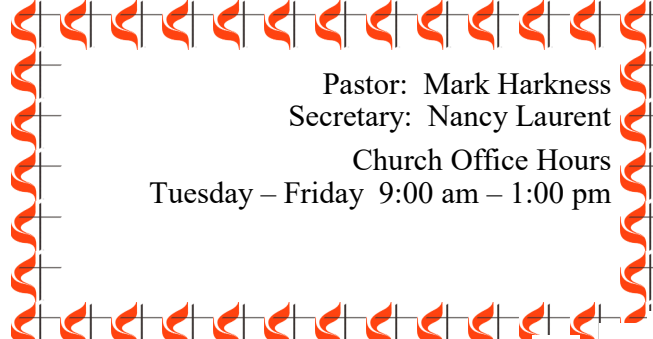


Cherry Valley United Methodist Church
 112 South Cherry Street, P.O. Box 235
 Cherry Valley, Illinois 61016

NON-PROFIT ORG.
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID
 PERMIT NO. 9
 CHERRY VALLEY
 IL 61016




Sunday School @ 8:45 am for all
 ages. September—May
 Sunday @ 9:45 am—Worship
 Sunday @ 11:00 am—Fellowship
 All are welcome!
Worship
 OPPORTUNITIES



Pastor: Mark Harkness
 Secretary: Nancy Laurent
 Church Office Hours
 Tuesday – Friday 9:00 am – 1:00 pm